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NEWS RELEASE

MAYOR AND POLICE CHIEF ANNOUNCE CRIME PREVENTION TIPS FOR ARMED ROBBERIES

City of Reading Mayor Vaughn Spencer and Police Chief William Heim held a joint News Conference today to discuss several ways that local business owners and residents can protect themselves from being victims of armed robberies. "As part of my vision plan for safer neighborhoods in the City of Reading, I want everyone to understand that we're committed to protecting our residents and business owners with the aggressive police work that we've seen occur over the last couple of days," said Reading Mayor Vaughn Spencer.

"We have to work hand in hand with the administration and with the Police Department and then we can solve these problems, stated Sunilda Tejada, a Reading small business owner and community leader. "We are a hard working people, honest people who are trying to raise our family in a nice, peaceful environment," Tejada said about the Latino Community in Reading to applause from those gathered in City Council Chambers.

Police Chief William Heim provided several safety tips for owners of small businesses like convenience stores that have been the target of several armed robberies recently. "Making the inside of your stores as visible from the street as possible is important. For citizens and Police passing by to be able to see in, for the Police Patrols to be able to make eye contact and wave to make sure that everything is all right is really important," Chief Heim said. "Prevention is better than apprehension," Heim concluded.

A list of crime prevention tips was available for those in attendance courtesy of the Reading Police Department.

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